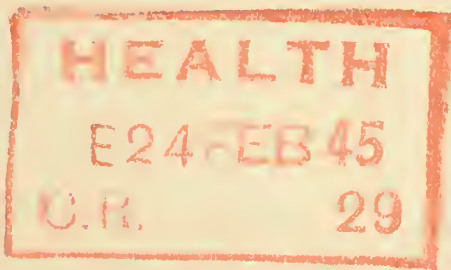


LIBRARY



BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

Mayor ... ALDERMAN J. CHAPMAN, J.P.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER

1943

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S,

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2999939x>



BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

Mayor ... ALDERMAN J. CHAPMAN, J.P.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER

1943

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1942-1943.

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. A. A. KEECH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. BUTTERWORTH.

The Mayor: Alderman J. CHAPMAN, J.P.

Alderman A. Pimlott.

Alderman A. E. Williams.

Alderman F. Wilkinson, J.P.

Alderman C. W. Thompson.

Councillor J. D. Crewdson.

Councillor F. Bolton.

Councillor W. A. Satchwell.

Councillor J. Haddow, J.P.

Councillor C. W. Travis.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P., and S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

L. T. J. TRIPPIER, Cert. R.S.I.,
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

†H. KELLETT, Cert. R.S.I. (on Active Service
with R.A.M.C.)

†W. A. BARKER, Cert. R.S.I.

†G. E. STANLEY, Cert. R.S.I. (from 1/3/43)

†Certified Meat and Food Inspectors.

Office Staff:

Mrs. F. ROSCOE (Temporary Typist).

Miss E. D. WILSON (Loaned Central Typing Dept.).

Mr. H. DIXON (Junior Clerk).

Public Health Department,
"Monsall Lodge,"
Bury New Road,
Prestwich.

To The Mayor,
and Members of the Prestwich Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1943. As requested by the Ministry of Health it is a curtailed report and deals with the more important Health matters, Public Health Services, Vital Statistics, Infectious Diseases and Sanitary Works.

Four years of war with all its trials and anxieties have now drawn to a close and in the following pages the effect on the health of the district and the changes wrought will be unfolded.

Surprisingly the population has only decreased by 940 according to the Registrar General's estimate for the year, but in my opinion it has decreased more and counterbalanced by the influx of refugees who have come temporarily to reside in the district.

I am glad to inform you that the birth rate continues to rise. This year there were 462 legitimate and 13 illegitimate births, a rise of 72 and 2 respectively over the previous year. The still births were higher by 9 owing probably to the anxieties of mothers during the years of war.

There was a small decrease in the deaths, viz., 21 or a crude death rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Unfortunately the death rate of infants under one year shows an increase, viz., 42 per 1,000 live births, whereas the rate last year was 34 per 1,000 live births. No doubt this increase is

partly due to the periodic difficulty in obtaining certain vitamins, fuel for heating and the lack of sunshine in a year of inclement weather.

The general health of the residents was not as well maintained as the previous war years as evidenced by the number of colds, gastric troubles and rheumatism amongst them. The anxious times through which people are passing plus long hours of work, standing in queues for transport and food for hours at a time in cold biting winds and rain, during a long winter and a cold summer strangled the attempts to keep well by brave people.

In conclusion I express my thanks to the Council, The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Mr. F. H. Ashton, and other officials for their kind support.

I also wish to record my appreciation of Mr. L. T. J. Trippier, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his great assistance, and good work of the staff in the Health Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. BURBIDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 2,420

Population :

Registrar-General's Estimate, 1943 32,380

Census, 1931 24,940

Density (persons per acre) :

Number of inhabited houses end of 1943

according to rate books 9,850

Rateable Value £235,384

Sum represented by a penny rate £917

Social conditions are good. The area is mainly residential, the chief industries being Bleaching, Dyeing and Finishing, also manufacture of Soap.

Extent of unemployment official figures not available. Demand for labour has exceeded supply, persons persistently unemployed because of physical and/or mental infirmity and unsuitability represent only .001% of the workers in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Totals
(Legitimate	238	224	462
Live Births (Illegitimate	7	6	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Totals	245	230	475
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	14.6		
(Legitimate	5	12	17
Still Births (Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(Totals	5	12	17
Rate of still births per 1,000 total births ...	34.		
Deaths	183	182	365
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.2.		
Deaths from puerperal causes.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still)		
	Deaths	Births	
Puerperal Sepsis	1	...	2.03
Other Maternal Causes	nil.	...	nil.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	...	2.03
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	42		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	38		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	153		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	52		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil.		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1		

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1943.

	Males	Females	Totals
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6	13
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	—	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	5	5	10
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer	26	26	52
Diabetes	2	2	4
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	18	24	42
Heart Disease	45	36	81
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	6	11
Bronchitis	14	13	27
Pneumonia	9	11	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer, Stomach Duodenum	6	1	7
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	1	1
Congenital, Debility, Premature Births,			
Malformation, etc.	6	5	11
Appendicitis	4	—	4
Other Digestive Diseases	6	5	11
Nephritis	7	6	13
Puerperal Diseases	—	1	1
Suicides	1	2	3
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
Other Violence	2	7	9
All other causes	13	21	34
Total	183	182	365

B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1)—Ambulance Facilities :

(a) Infectious cases removed to the Florence Nightingale Hospital in ambulances provided by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

(b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases :

The Borough Ambulance service was augmented in February, 1942, by the provision of a new Ambulance, making two Ambulances in commission. The service has greatly benefited thereby.

(2)—Nursing in the Home.

General and Maternity Nursing is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association. The warmest thanks are due to the nurses for their excellent work.

There are four midwives including the County Council Midwife practising in the area. Their work during the past year has to be commended.

(3)—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Centre is open at Prestwich on Thursdays, and at Heaton Park on Mondays, 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. During the year there were 6,946 attendances, a weekly average of 131.

Dr. Hutchinson and a Nurse of the County Council Authority are in attendance at each session, and there is a voluntary Committee of five ladies—Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Adams, Miss Ballantyne and Mrs. Madeley.

An Anti-Natal Clinic is held at "The Uplands," Whitefield, each Monday from 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

(4)—Hospital Accommodation.

(a) General : Accommodation is provided by Hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bury.

(b) Maternity : There is no Maternity Hospital in the district. The Northern and St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, are available for complicated cases.

In addition to The Redcliffe Nursing Home and No. 4, Buckingham Road, a third Registered Nursing Home, "Glenside," St. Ann's Road, is now available.

(c) Children : The Northern Hospital, Manchester, and the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, are available.

(d) Infectious Diseases : Cases are treated at the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, which is maintained by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, of which Prestwich is a constituent member. Structural and establishment expenses of the Hospital are met by a precept based on the rateable value of the district of each constituent member.

Cost of maintenance of patients is divided on a basis of "patient days."

The estimated cost of treatment for the year ended 30th September, 1943, was £1,911. 12s. 3d.

119 Cases were admitted to the above Hospital during the year.

(e) Tuberculosis : Cases from this district are provided for by the Lancashire County Council Sanatoria.

C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—No important changes have taken place during the year with regard to water supplies, sewerage, drainage, rivers and streams.

2.—Closets accommodation at the end of 1943 :

	No. 1943	No. 1942
Middens	18	18
Closets attached to Middens	24	24
Pail Closets	139	139
Fresh Water Closets	10481	10481
Waste Water Closets	47	47
Moveable Dust Bins	10652	10652
Waste Water Closets converted to Fresh Water Closets	—	—

3.—Gully Cleaning :

During the year, 2,591 premises were visited and 4,953 gullies cleaned by workmen from the department.

4.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

Number of Premises visited	1539
Number of Inspections	2759
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	851
Number of defects or nuisances abated	546
Number of Drains Tested by Water	5
Number of Drains Tested by Smoke	169
Number of Drains Tested by Colour	107

5.—Number of Notices served :

(1) Informal Notices	461
(2) Statutory Notices	17

All the Statutory Notices were complied with.

6.—Bug Infestation :

22 Cases of infestation dealt with during the year including 1 case in a Council House. There were 2 cases outstanding at the end of 1942 these were also abated at the beginning of this year.

7.—Factories Act, 1937 :

(a) Mechanical Power	50
(b) Without Mechanical Power	12

33 Inspections of factories were made. 13 defects were found and all were remedied.

Outworkers :

3 Lists were received involving 44 visits to premises.

1 List was sent out.

8.—Procedure under the Shops Acts, 1912-36 :

37 Visits were paid to shops to ascertain that the requirements of the Acts were being observed. In very few cases non-compliance with Regulations was found.

No Court proceedings were taken against shopkeepers during the year.

5.—Laboratory Facilities :

No changes have taken place since my last report and facilities are still available at the Public Health Laboratories of Manchester and Salford.

D--HOUSING.

No new houses were erected in Prestwich during 1943, one house was demolished by reason of being a dangerous structure.

The number of houses owned by the Local Authority under the 1919-30 Acts shows no change namely 1,092.

The housing conditions in the district may be regarded as satisfactory. Under present conditions it is difficult to get repairs carried out to the older houses. At the end of the year there were 3 cases of overcrowding, 2 cases awaiting houses to be built by the Council on a particular site, whilst the third is due to war time conditions, i.e., shortage of houses.

E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—Milk Supply.

There are 122 persons registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. This figure comprises 6 cowkeepers, 58 Dairymen or retail roundsmen, and 58 persons registered for the sale of bottled milk only.

The cleanliness of premises and methods of distribution has been generally satisfactory considering the restrictions of war conditions. Inspection of farms, dairies and milk shops is carried out periodically.

Examination of Samples—14 Samples were taken for bacteriological examination of which four were unsatisfactory. The farmers concerned were written to and improvement in cleanliness was noted. 10 Samples were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, all the results were negative except 4.

Particulars of the positive samples were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and the appropriate action was taken.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1940 :

The following Licences were issued :—

“Tuberculin Tested Milk.”

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------|
| (1) Bottling | ... .. | nil. |
| (ii) Distribution | ... .. | nil. |

“Accredited Milk.”

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------|
| (i) Bottling | ... .. | nil. |
| (ii) Distribution | ... .. | 2 |

“Pasteurised Milk.”

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---|
| (i) Pasteurising Plants | ... .. | 1 |
| (ii) Distribution | ... .. | 3 |

2.—Meat and other Foods.

There are two licensed private slaughter houses in the district also one in connection with the County Mental Hospital. Slaughtering at the two private slaughter houses was stopped under the Live Stock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

6 Slaughtermen's licences were issued..

The retail meat shops have been regularly visited to inspect the meat and see that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations were being observed. Generally conditions have been satisfactory and no statutory action has been necessary.

There are 18 bakehouses on the register. Periodical inspection has been carried out and on occasions it has been necessary to draw attention to overdue limewashing and cleanliness.

Other food premises have been inspected regularly and strict attention has been paid to cleanliness.

3.—Unfit Foodstuffs.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to the Department and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

922 Tins ... Tinned Foodstuffs.

44½ lbs. ... Bacon.

10 lbs. ... Cooking Fats.

2¼ lbs. ... Pressed Beef.

5¾ lbs. ... Butter.

5 Stones ... Herring

4 dozen ... Fish Cakes.

13½ lbs. ... Prunes.

4.—Adulteration, etc., Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Lancashire County Council administer the above and I am indebted to Mr. J. C. Almond, County Sanitary Inspector, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district.

14 Samples of milk and 6 other articles of food were taken all were satisfactory.

14 Milk.

1 Soup.

1 Dried Milk.

1 Pickles.

1 Margarine.

2 Cooking Fats.

F—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Whooping Cough were the most prevalent Infectious Diseases during the year. The spread of these infections is in nearly every case spread by Contacts especially in Schools when children in the incubation period of these diseases are intermingling with each other before definite signs of disease make their appearance.

There were only 9 cases of Diphtheria notified and no deaths from this disease proving the efficiency of Diphtheria serum injections in the fight with this fatal ailment.

2.—Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 360 pre-school children and 406 school children were immunised.

Sessions are held at the Public Health Department as often as required. I have been greatly assisted in the work by the valuable help of Nurse Wellard, kindly lent by the Lancashire County Council.

The method I have carried out from the beginning was to separate the children into two classes, viz., namely:—

- (1) Those that had had no Whooping Cough or Diphtheria since Birth.
- (2) Those that had no Diphtheria but had had Whooping Cough.

In the first class I immunised against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria by giving three injections of a combined Serum with an interval of one month between each injection.

In the second class three injections of Diphtheria Serum with an interval of one month between each injection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases of all ages	Total Cases Notified										65 and over	Total from the district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45				45-65
Scarlet Fever	144	—	2	1	9	10	83	19	4	12	4	—	—	108	—
Diphtheria (including															
Membranous Croup	9	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	1	—	—	9	—
Acute Pneumonia															
(PPrimary and Influenzal)	63	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	5	4	7	22	16	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	120	3	10	14	16	22	36	3	2	14	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	89	14	2	5	13	11	43	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	11	8	3	1	—
Erysipelas	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	19	3	—	—
Totals	490	21	16	22	39	44	164	25	13	49	26	49	22	1	124

NOTE :—The following cases are included in the above Table :—

- (a) In County Mental Hospital :—Pneumonia 37, Measles 2, Erysipelas 21, Dysentery All Cases.
- (b) Non-Civilian :—Scarlet Fever 2, Diphtheria 1, Pneumonia 3, Measles 11.

Since January, 1941, when the scheme was commenced I have immunised to the end of December, 1943, 2,946 children of which 1,916 were school age, and am glad to report there were no serious after effects from the injections.

Age in years

on 31st December, of the

corresponding year

1941 1942 1943

0—	86	...	65	...	145	} TOTAL 1,020
1—	...	...	...	159	...	92	...	93
2—	...	...	...	149	...	55	...	41
3—	...	...	...	145	...	54	...	37
4—	138	...	46	...	44	} TOTAL 1,835 ₂
5—	...	...	...	127	...	49	...	50
6—	...	...	...	113	...	32	...	50
7—	...	...	...	120	...	32	...	58
8—	...	...	...	111	...	28	...	41
9—	...	...	...	134	...	22	...	43
10—	...	...	...	98	...	20	...	64
11—	85	...	21	...	47	} TOTAL 81
12—	...	...	...	67	...	16	...	16
13—	...	...	...	59	...	16	...	20
14—	15	...	4	...	7	} GRAND TOTAL
15 and over	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	1
				1628			552	766	2,946 ₂

From the above Table it will be seen that the total inoculated aged under 5 years on 31st December, 1943, was 1,020.

Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1943, was 1,835.

Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1943, was 81.

Grand Total 1941—43, 2,946.

3.—Diphtheria Antitoxin.

120,000 Units were issued to Medical Practitioners free of charge for the treatment of local residents.

Many residents have had their children immunised privately during this year and I sincerely hope that many more will take the opportunity of getting their children immunised against this disease; which in years of war, when health is below par, is always on the alert to seize its victims quickly before anything can be done to save their lives.

8.—Tuberculosis.

New Cases of Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	3	1	1	1	—	—	—
20—25	3	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	3	2	1	—	4	2	2	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	9	6	2	7	6	2	—
	20		8		13		2	
Totals	28				15			

I regret to report an increase of 1 in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified over the previous year, the figure being 28 in 1943 and 27 in 1942.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 15 against 16 in 1942, and from other tubercular affections 2 against 3 in 1942.

The rates are as follows :—	per 1,000 of Population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.45
Other Tubercular Diseases	0.06

The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is efficient and no action has been necessary in respect of non-notification.

No action has been necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of specimens examined in 1943 by the Public Health Laboratories of Manchester and Salford were as follows :—

Diphtheria—Throat or Nose Swabs	69
Virulence Tests	2
Tuberculosis—Sputum	13
Others, Widal Tests, etc.	1

Action taken with regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return Cases, (c) Carrier Cases.

(a) Contacts excluded from School and in a few cases from work.

No. of contacts traced :

Scarlet Fever	93 School	414 others
Diphtheria	7 School	24 others

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

Public Health (Small Pox) Prevention Regulations, 1917.
No vaccinations were performed by me during the year.

Disinfection.

Infected premises when necessary are fumigated with formaldehyde vapour, and the walls sprayed by the Council.

Bedding and clothing is removed and disinfected in the steam disinfecter provided by the Council.

Number of disinfections carried out :—

Rooms	203
Articles of Bedding and Clothing	1314
Public Library Books	191
Articles, Bedding and Clothing destroyed	27

Disinfection is carried out by workmen attached to the Health Department.

During the year at holiday periods the schools in the district are disinfected with formaldehyde vapour and the drain gullies and grids cleansed and disinfected with Chloride of Lime.

